

Times Herald
Dallas 11/22/79
remembers
Kennedy

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In Iran, 49 Americans were being held captive by a crowd of student activists, while in Pakistan others had been forced to flee unruly mobs.

In grocery stores, the rising cost of food was making daily life for individuals as irritating as global politics.

And in downtown Dallas, the gray skies served only to reinforce the melancholy mood of 75 people gathered at noon to reflect on the assassination of a president, 16 years ago.

"Like it or not, we live in a time of danger and uncertainty," said Benjamin Morrison, a Parker County Democratic official, quoting from the eulogy given by Robert Kennedy at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, who was killed Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

"Something is wrong," C. W. Ferrell, a state employe, said as he listened to Morrison.

"I saw Kennedy in the motorcade before he died. This is terrible that nobody comes today to be here. I guess they have other things to worry about."

A few years back, the city stopped sponsoring a memorial service to remember the incident. This caused much debate at the time, but eventu-

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Memorial honors JFK

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ally the local Democratic party decided to sponsor it, as it did Wednesday, a day before the actual anniversary that this year coincides with Thanksgiving.

Those gathered were not yearning for Camelot. Indeed, those interviewed said they did not think Edward Kennedy would be president. And, they remember, there had been turbulence during Kennedy's administration, as there is now.

Garry Weber, Dallas County Judge and a Democrat, gave a short speech as part of the 20-minute ceremony. Afterwards, he said,

"We're living in some turbulent times. But there were turbulent times then. And then, there was some tremendous impact on youth because of the turbulence. That's when I began to get interested in politics and government."

"I think people are getting more turned off nowadays. There's an undercurrent of good in the country," said Bob Secrest, a visitor from Chicago. "But we're boxed in from all sides and I'm not sure what can be done."

A block away, in Dealey Plaza where Kennedy was shot, the usual tourists strolled around the grassy knolls and stared at the gutted school book depository.



—Staff photo by Paul Iverson

Bob Secrest of Chicago wipes tears from his eyes during the Kennedy memorial service